

SENATE RESOLUTION 13  
By Norris

A RESOLUTION to urge the Bureau of TennCare and the Department of Education to approve and submit the Medicaid Administrative Claim Program Implementation Plan to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

WHEREAS, the Medicaid Administrative Claim (MAC) Program provides federal financial reimbursement to local education agencies for activities currently being performed within the school districts that link students to Medicaid health services; and

WHEREAS, the school-based MAC Program focuses upon identifying and documenting the time that local education agencies spend in identifying, referring, coordinating and linking children and their families with Medicaid covered health services both within the school and in the community; and

WHEREAS, the MAC Program represents sound and prudent public policy by facilitating the proper and efficient administration of the State's Medicaid plan through coordination and partnership with TennCare, the Department of Health, the Department of Education and local school districts; and

WHEREAS, school systems in several states in the country, including North Carolina, Alabama and Florida, are currently taking advantage of this program, drawing down millions of dollars in quarterly federal reimbursements through the MAC Program and providing crucial dollars to schools in these times of budget shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee school systems have been working diligently with TennCare representatives since 1999 to develop and implement this important program, initiating time studies and collecting the necessary financial and activity data to develop administrative claims; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee school systems may not receive reimbursement for Medicaid outreach activities until the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approves the State MAC Program Implementation Plan, which must be submitted by TennCare; and

WHEREAS, local school systems have already lost an estimated \$23 million due to the State's failure to submit the MAC Program Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the continual delay of final approval of a State MAC Program will result in an annual loss of an estimated \$18 million to local school districts; and

WHEREAS, the MAC Program will require no increased costs to the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby strongly urge the Bureau of TennCare and the Department of Education to take whatever means necessary to approve and submit the MAC Program Implementation Plan to CMS, so that local school districts in Tennessee can begin to receive financial remuneration for health-related services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be transmitted to Manny Martins, the Deputy Commissioner of TennCare, and to Lana Seivers, the Commissioner of Education.